

Limiting the Holy God

Psalm 78:40-41

24 March 2023

“Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.”

THE POWER OF GOD:

“For with God nothing shall be impossible” (Luke 1:37).
The Lord God is omnipotent (Rev. 19:6). (All powerful).
He is the Almighty God (Gen. 17:1, Ezek. 10:5, Rev 19:15).
He is the “blessed and only Potentate” (1 Tim. 6:15), the one with all power.

THE ABILITIES OF GOD:

God is “able to build you up” (Acts 20:32).
God is “able to make all grace abound toward you (2 Cor. 20:32).
God is “able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think...” (Eph. 3:20).
God is “is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” (Php. 3:20).
God is “able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” (2 Tim. 1:12).
God is “able to succour (help, aid) them that are tempted.” (Heb. 2:18).
God is “able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him.” (Heb 7:25).
God is “able to keep you from falling.” (Jude 24).

How could mere human beings limit or hinder such a powerful God?

- *Unbelievers* are not capable of limiting anything God wants to do. *Believers* are the ones who limit God by not doing what they’re supposed to be doing.

We limit God

I. By our sinfulness

A. Sin separates from God (Isaiah 59:1-2)

- “The LORD’S hand is not shortened.”*** The problem is not with God.
- “Your iniquities have separated between you and your God...that he will not hear.”***
You limit God’s working in your life when you refuse to forsake your sin.

B. Sin prevents us from obtaining the good things God wants us to have (Jeremiah 5:25).

- God wants you to have His peace (Php 4:7, Jn 14:27), a strong marriage, a godly family, a fulfilling ministry, spiritual blessings, etc. Those are some good things that sin prevents.

II. By our faithlessness

A. No faith; no mighty works (Matthew 13:58; 17:14-20) “*And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.*”

- How often does the Lord not do something we ask because we don’t expect Him to? (James 1:6-7). Increase your faith (Rom. 10:17, Mark 9:24).
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III. By our prayerlessness

A. *"Ye have not, because ye ask not"* (James 4:1-2).

I. God wants to hear from us. He enjoys spending time with us.

I. Prayer should include: talking to God, seeking His counsel, praising Him, loving Him, admiring Him, confession of sins, thanking Him, supplication (asking God for the things we need or want, spiritual or material).

B. **The sin of ceasing to pray (1 Samuel 12:23-24) "God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in CEASING to pray for you."**

I. Don't give up when your prayers are not answered. Keep praying (1 Thes. 5:17) until you get an answer or until the person you're praying for is in eternity.

C. **The power of fervent prayer (James 5:16-18). It "availeth much."**

IV. By our willfulness (Rebellion)

A. **God would; but we will not (Matthew 23:37)**

B. **The example of Christ (Mark 14:36; Philippians 2:5-8)**

I. When you pray, "Thy will be done," be sincere and really seek God's will.
